

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete list of the claims now pending. This listing replaces all earlier versions and listings of the claims.

Claim 1 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus with a function of transmitting electronic mail, comprising:

designating means for designating a desired object, stored in storage means, to be attached to electronic mail;

acquisition means for acquiring access information including ~~information~~ limitation of access to the object designated by said designating means and access permission information for permitting a user to access the object designated by said designating means regardless of whether or not the user is registered to access said storage means; and

generating means for generating electronic mail information, which includes the access information acquired by said acquisition means.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said generating means generates an attachment file, which includes the access information acquired by said acquisition means and attaches the generated attachment file to electronic mail that is to be transmitted.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein said generating means affixes the access information, which has been acquired by
said acquisition means, to a main body of electronic mail that is to be transmitted.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein the access information includes information indicating a storage location of the
object, which has been designated by said designating means, in a system.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein said designating means includes display means for presenting an
at-a-glance display, in a thumbnail or list format, of documents that are present in a specific
storage area, and for displaying an icon corresponding to an electronic mail application that
is for generating and transmitting electronic mail[[:]] and

wherein, when a desired document among the documents in the at-a-glance
display is dropped onto the icon, the desired document is designated.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein said acquisition means includes setting means for allowing a user to set access
information via a prescribed user interface.

Claim 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (original): The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising setting means for setting, as part of the access information, permission to access all object files in a storage area of an object that has been designated by said designating means.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising setting means for setting, as part of the access information, permission to access other versions of [[an]] the object that has been designated by said designating means.

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Claim 10 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus with a function of receiving electronic mail, comprising:

extraction means, for extracting access information contained in electronic mail that has been received, said access information including limitation of access to an object and access permission information for permitting a user to access the object regardless of whether or not the user is registered to access storage means in which the object is stored;

access means for accessing the object using the access permission information under the limitation specified by the access information extracted by said extraction means; and

display means for presenting a display that corresponds to the object based upon a content of the object accessed by said access means.

Claim 11 (original): The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said display means presents either a thumbnail display or a list display regarding objects accessed by said access means.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein:
the access information includes enabling information indicating whether it is permissible to access another object present at a storage location to which the object belongs;

said access means accesses another object present at the storage location in a case in which the enabling information permits access to the other object; and

said display means presents an at-a-glance display relating to an object present at the storage location based upon results of accessing performed by said access means.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising:
selection means for selecting a desired object from the at-a-glance display;
and

content display means for displaying a content of an object that has been selected by said selection means.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 10,
wherein:

the access information includes enabling information indicating whether it
is permissible to access another version of the object;

said access means accesses an object that is another version of the object in
a case in which the enabling information permits access to the other version; and

said display means presents an at-a-glance display inclusive of the other
version of the object based upon results of accessing performed by said access means.

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Claim 15 (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 14, further
comprising:

selection means for selecting a desired object from the at-a-glance display;
and

content display means for displaying a content of [[an]] the object that has
been selected by said selection means.

Claim 16 (original): The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said
extraction means extracts the access information from a file that has been attached to
electronic mail.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 10,
wherein said extraction means extracts the access information from a main body of
electronic mail.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 10,
wherein:

the access information includes position information for specifying a storage location at which the object is present, ~~and information for obtaining privilege to access an object at the storage location;~~ and[[,]]

using the access information ~~as an access key,~~ such that said access means accesses the object at the storage location specified by the position information.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 18,
wherein the access ~~key is~~ information includes information for logging in to the storage location.

Claim 20 (currently amended): An information processing system in which electronic mail is sent and received between information processing apparatuses,
comprising:

generating means for generating electronic mail information, which includes access information indicating limitation of access to an object, stored in storage means, to be ~~to be~~ accessed by a receiver of the electronic mail and including access permission information for permitting a user to access the object regardless of whether or not the user is registered to access said storage means in which the object is stored;

communication means for sending and receiving the electronic mail information generated by said generating means; and

access means for accessing the object using the access permission information under the limitation specified by the access information contained in the electronic mail information received via said communication means.

Claim 21 (original): The system according to claim 20, wherein said generating means includes:

designating means for designating a desired object to be attached to electronic mail;

acquisition means for acquiring access information relating to the object designated by said designating means; and

mail information generating means for generating electronic mail information in which the access information acquired by said acquisition means constitutes part of the electronic mail.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The system according to claim 21, wherein said mail information generating means generates an attachment file, which includes the access information acquired by said acquisition means, and attaches the generated attachment file to electronic mail that is to be transmitted.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The system according to claim 21, wherein said mail information generating means affixes the access information, which has been acquired by said acquisition means, to a main body of electronic mail that is to be transmitted.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The system according to claim 21, wherein the access information includes information indicating a storage location of the object, which has been designated by said designating means, in said system.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The system according to claim 21, wherein said designating means has display means for presenting an at-a-glance display, in a thumbnail or list format, of documents that are present in a specific storage area, and for displaying an icon corresponding to an electronic mail application that is for generating and transmitting electronic mail; and

wherein, when a desired document among the documents in the at-a-glance display is dropped onto the icon, the desired document is designated.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The system according to claim 21, wherein said acquisition means includes setting means for allowing a user to set access information via a prescribed user interface.

Claim 27 (canceled)

Claim 28 (currently amended): The system according to claim 21, further comprising setting means for setting, as part of the access information, permission to access all object files in a storage area of [[an]] the object that has been designated by said designating means.

Claim 29 (currently amended): The system according to claim 21, further comprising setting means for setting, as part of the access information, permission to access other versions of [[an]] the object that has been designated by said designating means.

Claim 30 (original): The system according to claim 20, wherein said communication means transmits the electronic mail information, which has been generated by said generating means, to an information processing apparatus that has been designated.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The system according to claim 20, wherein said access means includes:

extraction means for extracting the access information contained in electronic mail that has been received;

object access means for accessing an object based upon the access information extracted by said extraction means; and

display means for presenting a display that corresponds to the object based upon a content of the object accessed by said access means.

Claim 32 (original): The system according to claim 31, wherein said display means presents either a thumbnail display or a list display regarding objects accessed by said access means.

Claim 33 (currently amended): The system according to claim 31, wherein:
the access information contains enabling information indicating whether it
is permissible to access another object present at a storage location to which the object
belongs;

said access means accesses another object present at the storage location in
a case in which the enabling information permits access to the other object; and

said display means presents an at-a-glance display relating to an object
present at the storage location based upon results of accessing performed by said access
means.

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Claim 34 (previously presented): The system according to claim 33, further
comprising:

selection means for selecting a desired object from the at-a-glance display;
and

content display means for displaying a content of an object that has been
selected by said selection means.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The system according to claim 31,
wherein:

the access information contains enabling information indicating whether it
is permissible to access another version of the object;

said access means accesses an object that is another version of the object in
a case in which the enabling information permits access to the other version; and

said display means presents an at-a-glance display inclusive of the other version of the object based upon results of accessing performed by said access means.

Claim 36 (currently amended): The system according to claim 35, further comprising:

selection means for selecting a desired object from the at-a-glance display;

and

content display means for displaying a content of [[an]] the object that has been selected by said selection means.

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Claim 37 (original): The system according to claim 31, wherein said extraction means extracts the access information from a file that has been attached to electronic mail.

Claim 38 (previously presented): The system according to claim 31, wherein said extraction means extracts the access information from a main body of electronic mail.

Claim 39 (currently amended): The system according to claim 31, wherein:
the access information includes position information for specifying a storage location at which the object is present, ~~and information for obtaining privilege to access an object at the storage location;~~ and[[,]]

using the access information ~~as an access key,~~ such that said object access means accesses the object at the storage location specified by the position information.

Claim 40 (currently amended): The system according to claim 39, wherein the access ~~key~~ is information includes information for logging in to the storage location.

Claim 41 (currently amended): An information processing method in an apparatus with a function of transmitting electronic mail, said method comprising:

a designating step of designating a desired object, stored in a storage unit, to be attached to electronic mail;

C an acquisition step of acquiring access information including limitation of access to the object designated at said designating step and access permission information for permitting a user to access the object designated at said designating step regardless of whether or not the user is registered to access the storage unit; and

a generating step of generating electronic mail information, which includes the access information acquired at said acquisition step.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The method according to claim 41, wherein said generating step generates an attachment file, which includes the access information acquired at said acquisition step, and attaches the generated attachment file to electronic mail that is to be transmitted.

Claim 43 (previously presented): The method according to claim 41, wherein said generating step affixes the access information, which has been acquired at said acquisition step, to a main body of electronic mail that is to be transmitted.

Claim 44 (previously presented): The method according to claim 41, wherein the access information includes information indicating a storage location of the object, which has been designated at said designating step, in a system.

Claim 45 (currently amended): The method according to claim 41, wherein said designating step includes a display step of presenting an at-a-glance display, in a thumbnail or list format, of documents that are present in a specific storage area, and of displaying an icon corresponding to an electronic mail application that is for generating and transmitting electronic mail[[:]], and wherein, when a desired document among the documents in the at-a-glance display is dropped onto the icon, the desired document is designated.

Claim 46 (original): The method according to claim 41, wherein said acquisition step includes a setting step of allowing a user to set access information via a prescribed user interface.

Claim 47 (canceled)

Claim 48 (original): The method according to claim 41, further comprising a setting step of setting, as part of the access information, permission to access all object files in a storage area of an object that has been designated at said designating step.

Claim 49 (currently amended): The method according to claim 41, further comprising a setting step of setting, as part of the access information, permission to access other versions of [[an]] the object that has been designated at said designating step.

Claim 50 (currently amended): An information processing method in an apparatus with a function of receiving electronic mail, said method comprising:

C (an extraction step of extracting access information contained in electronic mail that has been received, said access information including limitation of access to an object stored in a storage unit and access permission information for permitting a user to access the object regardless of whether or not the user is registered to access the storage unit in which the object is stored;

an access step of accessing the object using the access permission information under the limitation specified by the access information extracted at said extraction step; and

a display step of presenting a display that corresponds to the object based upon a content of the object accessed at said access step.

Claim 51 (original): The method according to claim 50, wherein said display step presents either a thumbnail display or a list display regarding objects accessed at said access step.

Claim 52 (currently amended): The method according to claim 50, wherein:
the access information ~~contains~~ includes enabling information indicating
whether it is permissible to access another object present at a storage location to which the
object belongs;

said access step accesses another object present at the storage location in a
case in which the enabling information permits access to the other object; and

said display step presents an at-a-glance display relating to an object present
at the storage location based upon results of accessing performed at said access step.

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Claim 53 (previously presented): The method according to claim 52, further
comprising:

a selection step of selecting a desired object from the at-a-glance display;

and

a content display step of displaying a content of an object that has been
selected at said selection step.

Claim 54 (currently amended): The method according to claim 50, wherein:
the access information ~~contains~~ includes enabling information indicating
whether it is permissible to access another version of the object;

said access step accesses an object that is another version of the object in a
case in which the enabling information permits access to the other version; and

said display step presents an at-a-glance display inclusive of the other
version of the object based upon results of accessing performed at said access step.

Claim 55 (currently amended): The method according to claim 54, further comprising:

a selection step of selecting a desired object from the at-a-glance display;

and

a content display step of displaying a content of ~~[[an]]~~ the object that has been selected at said selection step.

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Claim 56 (original): The method according to claim 50, wherein said extraction step extracts the access information from a file that has been attached to electronic mail.

Claim 57 (previously presented): The method according to claim 50, wherein said extraction step extracts the access information from a main body of electronic mail.

Claim 58 (currently amended): The method according to claim 50, wherein:
the access information includes position information for specifying a storage location at which the object is present, ~~and information for obtaining privilege to access an object at the storage location;~~ and~~[[,]]~~

using the access information ~~as an access key;~~ such that said access step accesses the object at the storage location specified by the position information.

Claim 59 (currently amended): The method according to claim 58, wherein the access ~~key~~ is information includes information for logging in to the storage location.

Claim 60 (currently amended): A method of controlling an information processing system in which electronic mail is sent and received between information processing ~~apparatus~~ apparatuses, said method comprising:

c a generating step of generating electronic mail information[[.]], which includes access information indicating limitation of access to an object, stored in a storage unit, to be ~~to be~~ accessed by a ~~received~~ receiving information processing apparatus of the electronic mail and including access permission information for permitting a user to access the object regardless of whether or not the user is registered to access the storage unit in which the object is stored;

a communication step of sending and receiving the electronic mail information generated at said generating step; and

an access step of accessing the object using the access permission information based upon the access information contained in the electronic mail information received via said communication step.

Claim 61 (original): The method according to claim 60, wherein said generating step includes:

a designating step of designating a desired object to be attached to electronic mail;

an acquisition step of acquiring access information relating to the object designated at said designating step; and

mail information generating step of generating electronic mail information in which the access information acquired at said acquisition step constitutes part of the electronic mail.

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Claim 62 (currently amended): The method according to claim 61, wherein said mail information generating step generates an attachment file, which includes the access information acquired [[by]] at said acquisition step, and attaches the generated attachment file to electronic mail that is to be transmitted.

Claim 63 (previously presented): The method according to claim 61, wherein said mail information generating step affixes the access information, which has been acquired at said acquisition step, to a main body of electronic mail that is to be transmitted.

Claim 64 (previously presented): The method according to claim 61, wherein the access information includes information indicating a storage location of the object, which has been designated at said designating step, in the system.

Claim 65 (currently amended): The method according to claim 61, wherein:
said designating step includes a display step of presenting an at-a-glance display, in a thumbnail or list format, of documents that are present in a specific storage

area, and of displaying an icon corresponding to an electronic mail application that is for generating and transmitting electronic mail; and

wherein, when a desired document among the documents in the at-a-glance display is dropped onto the icon, the desired document is designated.

Claim 66 (original): The method according to claim 61, wherein said acquisition step includes a setting step of allowing a user to set access information via a prescribed user interface.

Claim 67 (canceled)

Claim 68 (currently amended): The method according to claim 61, further comprising a setting step of setting, as part of the access information, permission to access all object files in a storage area of [[an]] the object that has been designated at said designating step.

Claim 69 (currently amended): The method according to claim 61, further comprising a setting step of setting, as part of the access information, permission to access other versions of [[an]] the object that has been designated at said designating step.

Claim 70 (original): The method according to claim 60, wherein said communication step transmits the electronic mail information, which has been generated at said generating step, to an information processing apparatus that has been designated.

Claim 71 (previously presented): The method according to claim 60,
wherein said access step includes:

an extraction step of extracting the access information contained in
electronic mail that has been received;

an object access step of accessing an object based upon the access
information extracted at said extraction step; and

a display step of presenting a display that corresponds to the object based
upon a content of the object accessed at said access step.

Claim 72 (original): The method according to claim 71, wherein said
display step presents either a thumbnail display or a list display regarding objects accessed
at said access step.

Claim 73 (currently amended): The method according to claim 71, wherein:
the access information contains enabling information indicating whether it
is permissible to access another object present at a storage location to which the object
belongs;

said access step accesses another object present at the storage location in a
case in which the enabling information permits access to the other object; and

said display step presents an at-a-glance display relating to an object present
at the storage location based upon results of accessing performed at said access step.

Claim 74 (previously presented): The method according to claim 73, further comprising:

a selection step of selecting a desired object from the at-a-glance display;

and

a content display step of displaying a content of an object that has been selected at said selection step.

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Claim 75 (currently amended): The method according to claim 71, wherein:

the access information contains enabling information indicating whether it is permissible to access another version of the object;

said access step accesses an object that is another version of the object in a case in which the enabling information permits access to the other version; and

said display step presents an at-a-glance display inclusive of the other version of the object based upon results of accessing performed at said access step.

Claim 76 (currently amended): The method according to claim 75, further comprising:

a selection step of selecting a desired object from the at-a-glance display;

and

a content display step of displaying a content of [[an]] the object that has been selected at said selection step.

Claim 77 (original): The method according to claim 71, wherein said extraction step extracts the access information from a file that has been attached to electronic mail.

Claim 78 (previously presented): The method according to claim 71, wherein said extraction step extracts the access information from a main body of electronic mail.

Claim 79 (currently amended): The method according to claim 71, wherein:
the access information includes position information for specifying a storage location at which the object is present, ~~and information for obtaining privilege to access an object at the storage location;~~ and[[,]]

using the access information ~~as an access key~~, such that said object access step accesses the object at the storage location specified by the position information.

Claim 80 (currently amended): The method according to claim 79, wherein the access ~~key~~ is information includes information for logging in to the storage location.

Claim 81 (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising setting means for setting whether or not to provide the access information to an unregistered user, who has not registered as a user, as a part of the access information.

Claim 82 (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 81, further comprising means for giving a password to the unregistered user when said setting means has set that the unregistered user may be provided with the access information.

Claim 83 (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 81, further comprising means for prohibiting the unregistered user from accessing the object when said setting means has set that the unregistered user is not to be provided with the access information.

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Claim 84 (previously presented): The system according to claim 21, further comprising setting means for setting whether or not to provide the access information to an unregistered user, who has not registered as a user, as a part of the access information.

Claim 85 (previously presented): The system according to claim 84, further comprising means for giving a password to the unregistered user when said setting means has set that the unregistered user may be provided with the access information.

Claim 86 (previously presented): The system according to claim 84, further comprising means for prohibiting the unregistered user from accessing the object when said setting means has set that the unregistered user is not to be provided with the access information.

Claim 87 (previously presented): The method according to claim 41, further comprising a setting step of setting whether or not to provide the access information to an unregistered user, who has not registered as a user, as a part of the access information.

Claim 88 (previously presented): The method according to claim 87, further comprising a step of giving a password to the unregistered user when said setting step has set that the unregistered user may be provided with the access information.

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Claim 89 (previously presented): The method according to claim 87, further comprising a step of prohibiting the unregistered user from accessing the object when said setting step has set that the unregistered user is not to be provided with the access information.

Claim 90 (previously presented): The method according to claim 61, further comprising a setting step of setting whether or not to provide the access information to an unregistered user, who has not registered as a user, as a part of the access information.

Claim 91 (previously presented): The method according to claim 90, further comprising a step of giving a password to the unregistered user when said setting step has set that the unregistered user may be provided with the access information.

Claim 92 (previously presented): The method according to claim 90, further comprising a step of prohibiting the unregistered user from accessing the object when said

setting step has set that the unregistered user is not to be provided with the access information.

Claim 93 (currently amended): A computer-readable memory storing a control program for causing a computer to generate electronic mail, the control program comprising:

code of a designating step of designating a desired object, stored in a storage unit, to be attached to electronic mail;

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code of an acquisition step of acquiring access information including ~~information~~ limitation of access to the object designated at ~~[[the]]~~ said designating step and access permission information for permitting a user to access the object designated at said designating step regardless of whether or not the user is registered to access the storage unit; and

code of a generating step of generating electronic mail information, which includes the access information acquired at ~~[[the]]~~ said acquisition step.

Claim 94 (currently amended): A computer-readable memory storing a control program for causing a computer to process received mail, the control program comprising:

code of an extraction step of extracting access information contained in electronic mail that has been received, ~~[[said]]~~ the access information including limitation of access to an object stored in a storage unit and access permission information for

permitting a user to access the object regardless of whether or not the user is registered to access the object stored in storage unit;

code of an access step of accessing the object using the access permission information under the limitation specified by the access information extracted at said extraction step; and

code of a display step of presenting a display that corresponds to the object based upon a content of the object accessed at [[the]] said access step.
